

Vol. 27, No. 7

February 13, 1984

# BEIJING REVIEW

北京周报

A CHINESE WEEKLY OF  
NEWS AND VIEWS

- Current Workers' Movement in China
- Handling Civil Disputes





Liu Hanqin and his wife Tang Beisheng are both returned overseas Chinese from Italy, now associate research fellows in the Fujian Institute of Material Structure under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They recently received awards for their achievements.

In return for his brilliant contribution, Yang Yinan, a returned overseas Chinese with the Beijing Radio Factory, was recently promoted to be engineer of industrial art design.



Weng Zuxin, a returned overseas Chinese from Japan, is doing well in his research into the prevention and control of vegetable diseases.

Returned overseas Chinese Zhu Kunhuang, his wife Chen Susu and their eldest son Zhu Xiaobing were recently elected deputies to the Yueyang municipal people's congress of Hunan Province for their great contributions to the four modernizations.



Lai Aiguang (third from right), a returned overseas Chinese and now chief engineer in the Fujian Optical Instruments Plant, has successfully made 16 types of television lenses in the past few years.

## SPOTLIGHT



Lin Qingrui, a returned overseas Chinese from Mauritius, is now an engineer with the Wuxi No. 2 Reeling Mill.



# BEIJING REVIEW

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

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<b>COVER:</b> Ni Zhifu, President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, with the workers.	

Photo by Sun Shuqing

### Workers' Movement Enters a New Period

In a recent interview with *Beijing Review*, trade union leader Ni Zhifu talked about the progress the workers' movement and trade unions have made in the past few years, and outlined the role and tasks of trade unions in the new drive for socialist modernization (p. 17).

### Hu Yaobang on International Issues

General Secretary Hu Yaobang, in an interview with French newsmen, talked about China's stand on Chad, the Middle East, Kampuchea, disarmament and China's attitude towards the United States and the Soviet Union (p. 11).

### 1985 Industrial Targets Reached

As a result of China's efforts to quicken the development of its industrial production during the readjustment of the national economy, the output of 33 major products met the 1985 state plans two years ahead of schedule (p. 8).

### How China Handles Civil Disputes

China has a unique way of handling civil disputes, which have been increasing in the past few years. The Law of Civil Procedure enables the courts to handle cases easily, quickly and fairly (p. 22).

### First Year of Soong Ching Ling Foundation

In its first year, the Soong Ching Ling Foundation has received donations from around the world to aid Chinese children and promote international exchanges (p. 6). At the ceremony unveiling Soong Ching Ling's statue on January 27, Vice-President Ulanhu said friends and relatives of Dr. Sun and Mme. Soong are welcome to honour Soong's grave (p. 7).

### Climate to Cool

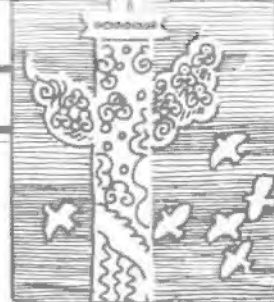
The coldest weather of the century will hit China between 1988 and 1993, according to a noted meteorologist who has studied climate records covering the past 500 years (p. 33).

Published every Monday by  
BEIJING REVIEW  
24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing  
The People's Republic of China

Distributed by **China International Book  
Trading Corporation** (GUOJI SHUDIAN),  
P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

Subscription prices (1 year):  
Australia ..... A.\$12.00    USA... US\$13.00  
New Zealand... NZ\$14.00    UK ..... £6.80  
Canada ..... Can. \$15.00





## Ideological Contamination Clarified

by AN ZHIGUO  
Political Editor

AT the Second Plenum of the 12th Party Central Committee last October, the decision to begin Party consolidation was issued together with the call to clear away ideological contamination. The move commanded immediate attention from the general public and leaders at all levels.

But opinions differed as to what the term "ideological contamination" implies. As a result, some irrelevant things were criticized and improper measures were taken in some areas. While the real problems passed unnoticed, trivial things suddenly came under attack. A small city store removed incense from its shelves, which Buddhists must have for their religious services. A popular movie was picked apart for trifles. These were enough to alert the central authorities. They called a meeting in mid-November to draw the line between what was contamination and what was not, thereby clearing up the confusion and over-sensitiveness spreading among many people.

Ideological contamination refers to erroneous words and actions that deviate from Marxism and socialism, decadent ideas such as pursuing profit as one's only aim and the influence of pornography. In short, it is limited to the ideological sphere, and has nothing to do with science and economics. The battle against ideological contamination has not been extended to the rural areas.

To effectively combat ideological contamination, we must oppose both the "Left" trend of thought,

which regards many normal things as unsavoury, and feudal ideas which cannot even tolerate descriptions of love in literature and art, and would label "obscene" any TV or movie scenes showing men and women kissing and embracing. Both the

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***By overcoming both the "Left" trend of thought and the remnants of feudalism and clearly distinguishing the normal things from the unsavoury, we will do a good job in clearing away ideological contamination.***

---

"Left" trend of thought and feudalism should be overcome, because they tend to broaden the scope of the struggle against ideological contamination.

In fact, we have devoted much effort to overcoming the above tendencies. For instance, over the last few years people have become increasingly fashion conscious. Colourful, well-tailored clothes began to appear, in sharp contrast with the bygone days when drab, cheerless clothing was the rule. This should not be regarded as ideological contamination; rather, people should be encouraged to wear beautiful clothes and enliven their daily activities.

In music, we do advocate revolutionary, spirited songs. But we do not reject mellow songs and light-music either, as long as they are not demoralizing or obscene. We cannot ban songs whose sentimentalism leaves much to be desired.

Instead, we should encourage our musicians to compose better music to replace them.

The Chinese people have their own tastes in art. But we offer no objections to paintings and sculptures which describe the beauty of the human body, and still less do we oppose efforts to draw on the strength of outstanding Western works of art.

China's literary and art world is flourishing as never before, with works of varied styles and ideological value emerging one after another in the last few years. A literary work should not be seen as contaminating so long as its main idea is healthy. China's theoreticians, writers and artists still studying and discussing the issue of ideological contamination. Some have criticized abstract humanism and the concept of so-called "socialist alienation." Some have criticized themselves for spreading wrong ideas in their works. Some art troupes have made performance tours to publicize socialist moral values in villages and factories.

Today, a clear line of demarcation has been drawn and the guideline has been clearly defined to avoid magnifying ideological contamination. The work will be done strictly in accordance with the people's democratic rights, as laid down in the Constitution and other state laws. It will never flare into the kind of political movements which occurred in China's recent past. No overbearing steps will be taken against those holding differing views. This will ensure a job well done in clearing the nation of ideological contamination.

## My Overall Impression

I think "Suggestions on the Drafting of the 'Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People's Republic of China'" by Deng Xiaoping in issue No. 30, 1983 is one of the best articles I have read since I began to subscribe to your magazine. While upholding and developing Mao Zedong Thought, it focuses on the appraisal of the role played by Mao Zedong in the long span of history. I am convinced that nobody, after reading it, can continue to spread the myth of China's de-Maoification, which once hoodwinked some people in certain countries. I'm also sure that the development of Mao Zedong Thought in present-day China is opening up a more brilliant prospect for the country.

Your article "Myth of De-Maoification Shattered" in issue No. 36 proved to be another excellent one. I think it has exploded all the guesses that China is carrying out a so-called de-Maoification movement. It also showed that despite all his mistakes, Mao Zedong deserves to be called an outstanding Marxist and a great leader of the Chinese people.

I would like to suggest you publish more articles like "National Symposium on Mao Zedong Thought" in issue No. 48, which explains how China applies Mao Zedong Thought in its modernization drive.

I am also interested in the articles written by Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Liu Shaoqi and Hu Yaobang. Deng Xiaoping's article "On the Reform of the System of Party and State Leadership" in issue No. 40 is excellent. Articles of this kind should be printed from time to time.

I like the front cover of your issue No. 31 and appreciate the revolutionary tradition of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. Therefore, I hope you publish more articles on military affairs.

The article "US Intervention in Central America" in issue No. 34 is also marvellous. I do like reading all the topics relating to US intervention in Central America. However, I hope your weekly will more strongly condemn the United States for its aggressive schemes in opposing the Latin American people.

I agree with your views on international affairs, such as your reports about Kampuchea (your supplement "The Kampuchean Issue" is well written), the Middle East, and events in Europe and Asia.

However, I think your coverage of Central America is not satisfactory. In my opinion you should focus on the US imperialists' neo-colonialism and their aggressive attitude. Meanwhile, I hope you will constantly expose the decadence of reactionary forces in this region and write about the vigorous advance of the revolutionary forces.

In addition, I am really delighted to read articles on the development of socialist ethics in your country. Today helping each other has become the order of the day in China, where even criminals are reformed to be good citizens. By contrast, in the capitalist world, the moribund customs, economic problems (such as unemployment) and other negative factors such as drug taking force people to commit crimes. Once a person violates the law, he can never expect to receive any assistance. Instead, he is discriminated against, excluded from social life, and looked down upon.

The development of socialist ethics is not only reflected in reforming criminals but also in daily life, such as showing respect for the aged and concern for the sick, being friendly and having good manners. These things have earned the Chinese people great respect from all over the world.

The article "Truth of Executing Criminals in Tibet" in issue No. 42 is excellent. It refuted the false reports on this matter, which were based on ungrounded lies and attempted to cause unrest. Re-

cently I read "Tibet: A Society Under Reform" published by the Foreign Languages Press. It gives an overall description of Tibet's history and the socialist transformation there. The very history of Tibet proves that it is the agents of imperialists who committed murder in Tibet. For instance, Getag, the great Tibetan patriot, was killed by them.

I'd like to focus on your articles on eliminating cultural contamination ("Clearing Cultural Contamination" by Deng Lihun in issue No. 45, and "Preventing Ideological Pollution" by Yue Ping in issue No. 47). I think the Chinese Communist Party and the Chinese people should be on the alert against the influence of decadent bourgeois ideology, because it can make the achievements of your socialist construction come to nothing and bring about such social diseases as extreme individualism and indifference to others. It seems to me that, while you correct "Left" errors, you should be extremely careful not to give rise to Right tendencies. The Right errors should be thoroughly eradicated. It would be a great pity for the bright future of China to be threatened by the influence of decadent ideology.

The "International" column in issue No. 45, with "United Nations: Viet Nam Censured for Fifth Time," "Grenada: US Armed Invasion Is Condemned," "Lebanon: Situation After the Ceasefire," "Soviet Union: Decision on Missile Deployment," "Western Europe: Anti-Nuclear Movement Growing," and "Bolivia: Ali Uphill for Civilian Government," is the best of all the 1983 issues. These articles are very interesting. What is more, they reflect China's stand on these affairs. The best is the article condemning the US armed invasion of Grenada.

I have bound my *Beijing Review* of 1982 to 1983 into four volumes. Whenever I want to get some information about China, I can refer to them very easily. It's really a pleasure.

Luis Jose Fernandez Ordonez  
Pola de Laviana, Spain



Soong Ching Ling (fourth from left), and Liao Chengzhi together with Chinese and foreign guests in 1974.

## First Year of Soong Ching Ling Foundation

**I**N its first full year, the Soong Ching Ling Foundation has attracted donations from around the world to aid Chinese children and promote international exchanges.

The foundation, in memory of the Honorary President of the People's Republic of China, was founded in Beijing on May 29, 1982, exactly one year after her death. Deng Xiaoping, a Party leader, is its honorary president.

The foundation is devoted to promoting friendly contacts among people at home and abroad, and providing donations for children's cultural, educational and welfare projects.

In the past year, the foundation has received donations and material objects from public

figures and ordinary workers — from 100,000 US dollars to five marks, from 100,000 yuan to three yuan. The material objects included electronic games, film projectors, tape-recorders and electronic organs. The contributors included friends and overseas Chinese from the United States, Britain, France, Canada, Australia, Colombia, the Federal Republic of Germany, Japan, Singapore, the Philippines and Xianggang (Hongkong) and Aomen (Macao).

Because Soong Ching Ling studied in the United States, American friends and overseas Chinese there have taken a special interest in the Soong Ching Ling Foundation. The National Committee of the US-China People's Friendship Association set up an executive committee to support the

foundation and collect donations in the eastern part of the United States. Representatives of the US Ambassador Cultural Foundation also said they hope to provide more donations.

The Dongan Public Society, an organization of overseas Chinese in New York, has actively collected donations for the foundation, demonstrating its love for the motherland and aspiration for China's reunification.

The UN Children's Fund appropriated 300,000 US dollars in its 1985-88 aid programme for the Soong Ching Ling Foundation.

The foundation has actively promoted exchanges with foreign countries, received some prominent figures and friendly organizations from other countries, and

united with compatriots living abroad.

When Soviet artist Phais Jaspas and her husband, old friends of Soong Ching Ling, visited her former residence in Beijing, it caused quite a stir in the Soviet artistic community.

Since opening to the public more than a year ago, 800,000 Chinese and foreigners have visited Soong's former home. Ilyichev, a special envoy from the Soviet Union, and his delegation, made a special visit there last year during the Sino-Soviet negotiations in Beijing. They praised the

magnificent contributions and moral values of Soong Ching Ling. Their inscriptions spoke highly of the excellent way in which Soong's former residence was displayed and managed. In the name of the special envoy, they presented gifts to the residence.

The visits to the former home of Soong Ching Ling have further expanded the impact of the foundation. In order to make the residence even more interesting, plans are now under way to collect personal objects and items of historical value left behind by Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching

Ling, to be housed in an exhibition hall adjacent to the residence.

*Children of Soong Ching Ling*, a joint film project by the Soong Ching Ling Foundation and the UN Children's Fund, has been produced. It mirrors the development of the Chinese children's welfare project, and will be premiered at the 41-nation executive board of the UN Children's Fund in this April.

The foundation has also been officially listed in the International Foundation Directory.

A children's science park, named after Soong Ching Ling,

## Unveiling of Soong Ching Ling's Statue

A statue of Soong Ching Ling was unveiled at the Soong Family Graveyard in Shanghai's International Cemetery on January 27, to mark the 91st anniversary of the birth of the late Honorary President of the People's Republic of China.

The white marble, about two and a half metres tall, was sculpted by five artists under the guidance of Liu Kaiqu, a famous sculptor. It stands on a polished, granite faced pedestal just over one metre high.

The ceremony was sponsored by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the State Council.

Vice-President Ulanhu, State Councillor Fang Yi, NPC Standing Committee Vice-Chairman Chen Pixian, and Kang Keqing, President of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation, as well as more than 700 people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

Soong Ching Ling fought all her life to emancipate the nation, pro-

mote world peace and defend the interests of children. Shortly before her death she joined the Communist Party of China. People both at home and abroad cherish her memory and greatly respect her lofty and affectionate ideals. She was a world-famous fighter for patriotism, democracy, internationalism and communism.

Ulanhu said at the ceremony that during her lifetime, Soong

Ching Ling earnestly hoped for the reunification of the motherland, and worked for the return of our Taiwan compatriots to the embrace of their motherland at an early date. We would like to send word to the friends and relatives of Dr. Sun Yat-sen and Mme. Soong now living in Taiwan, Xianggang and Aomen or overseas, Ulanhu said. They will be given a warm and sincere welcome if they wish to come and pay homage at the grave of Soong Ching Ling, and their freedom to come and go will be guaranteed.



will be built in Yuyuantan Park, a scenic spot covering 178 hectares in western Beijing. The park will have 10 areas—the ideal square, the scientific world, the toy city, the knowledge palace, the electronic world, humanity and na-

ture, flying to the universe, painting and calligraphy, art and literature, the biological world and the lake club. The majority of funds needed to build the park will be provided by the foundation.

## An Enthusiastic Spring Festival

At the stroke of midnight on February 2, millions of firecrackers and fireworks went off all over Beijing, turning the capital into a dazzling carnival, to usher in the lunar New Year.

In their enthusiasm, many people kicked up their heels to lion and dragon dances and other folk dances. Some old timers in Beijing said they had never witnessed such an enthusiastic turnout on a Spring Festival eve.

The CCTV put out a six-hour variety show, bringing pleasure to millions of families.

A grand Spring Festival get-together, sponsored by the CPC Central Committee, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the State Council and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, was held in the Great Hall of the People. More than 4,000 people in various

fields attended the gathering and extended New Year greetings to each other.

Premier Zhao Ziyang presided over the party, at which Li Xian-nian, President of the People's Republic of China, extended cordial greetings to all the Chinese people, compatriots in Xianggang (Hongkong), Aomen (Macao) and Taiwan, overseas Chinese and foreign experts and friends working in or visiting China. Li Xian-nian said, inspired by the 12th National Party Congress, the people of all nationalities in China achieved much on all fronts in 1983 and fulfilled the targets set in the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) for the nation's gross industrial and agricultural output value two years ahead of schedule. He called on the nation to unite as one and work hard to greet the 35th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic with new achievements.

On February 1, General Secretary of the Party Central Committee Hu Yaobang inspected the frontier in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and greeted the frontier guards there. He said China's borders are not yet tranquil, and Guangxi is faced with serious provocations from Viet Nam. He urged the frontier guards there to maintain their sharp vigilance and be ready to repel any possible intrusions by Vietnamese troops.

Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the CPC Central Advisory Commission, inspected the Shenzhen and Zhuhai Special Economic Zones in Guangdong on the eve of the Spring Festival. He said he was satisfied with the progress made in the special economic zones in the past few years. "Shenzhen's development and experience prove that our policy for setting up special economic zones is correct," Deng said.

Chen Yun, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Party Central Committee, hosted some famous folk artists in Beijing and urged them to make even greater contributions to the flourishing of socialist literature and art.

## 1985 Industrial Targets Reached

China's 1983 industrial output value hit a record 614.7 billion yuan, reaching the target for the end of the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1981-85) two years ahead of schedule, according to figures released by the State Statistical Bureau. However, some development outside the state plan marred the overall progress.

The output of 33 products met the 1985 state plans. They included coal, petroleum, natural gas, hydro-electricity, copper,

Peasants in the suburbs of Nanjing celebrating the Spring Festival.







The Shigejie Coal Mine in Shanxi Province fulfilled its quota for turning over profits to the state 76 days ahead of schedule.

chemical fertilizer, pig iron, rolled steel, washing machines and tape recorders. The output of 12 products, including TV sets, cloth, textiles, 10 varieties of nonferrous metal and synthetic rubber, fulfilled 93 per cent of their 1985 state targets.

Out of 100 major products, the annual quotas for 86 were met or overfilled. Energy output exceeded the 1983 state plan by 5.8 per cent, up 5.1 per cent from 1982.

Transportation also developed rapidly in 1983. The railways handled 1.161 million tons of cargo, 3.6 per cent more than the 1983 plan and 4.5 per cent more than in 1982. The trains also carried 1.051 million people, 8.3 per cent more than the quota and 6.3 per cent over 1982.

The development of light industry has accelerated season by season. The value of last year's light industry output was 305.1 billion yuan, 8.4 per cent more than in 1982. More new products and materials have also been developed. Not long ago, more than 7,000 new products from all over the country were on display in Beijing. The quality of 700 products conformed to or approached

the international standards, and 5,900 products reached the advanced domestic level.

In 1983, China quickened its development of industrial production and strengthened the weak links of energy and transportation, as part of the nationwide drive to readjust the national economy. But, the processing industry, energy and raw materials did not develop quickly enough. Raw materials and energy were still in short supply, although their quotas were fulfilled. Light industry dropped from 50.5 per cent of production in 1982 to 49.6 per cent last year. Some light industrial products could not be sold. In some places, redundant construction and blind development wasted money and set back the state plan.

## Relief Fodder Rushed to Tibet

Yaks and other domestic animals in Tibet are now eating the fodder transported from neighbouring provinces, thanks to the efforts of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and civil aviation departments.

In southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, animal husbandry is the main industry. A very severe drought last year caused a shortage of fodder this winter, which had threatened the local animals.

Last September, the Party Central Committee and the State Council asked the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, the Ministry of Commerce and the provinces concerned to send in 500 tons of fodder, which were to be processed in neighbouring Sichuan Province. Workers kept working through New Year's Day to finish processing the fodder ahead of schedule on January 3.

The large bulk of the fodder, bottlenecked by Tibet's poor transportation, caused more difficulties. But the State Economic Commission discussed the matter

Tibetan herdsmen collect their share of relief fodder.



with the general staff, logistics and air force departments of the PLA and civil aviation departments. They decided to get the fodder to Tibet before February 2, the Spring Festival.

The PLA air force dispatched two planes with three crews while the ground force stationed in Chengdu, Sichuan, organized 40 trucks with two teams of 80 drivers. The transport company in

Qamdo Prefecture shouldered transporting another 200 tons of fodder.

Through the concerted efforts of the Sichuan grain bureau, the Chengdu and Lhasa airports and the Tibetan office in Chengdu, all 500 tons of fodder arrived in Tibet by January 15.

Now the fodder is being redistributed to drought-stricken areas.

consultations on an equal footing. For the past two decades, Sino-French relations have been growing steadily in spite of winds and storms, crises and conflicts in the world, and internal changes."

The 20th anniversary should be a new starting point for the development of bilateral relations, Li said. He hoped that all those who love and are dedicated to Sino-French friendship would continue to make contributions.

"We believe that the steady growth of Sino-French friendly relations is of great significance," Li said. "In view of the grave world situation, it can not only benefit the people of the two countries but also help alleviate international tension in the interests of peace and stability in the world."

The Chinese President said that he had received a letter from President Francois Mitterrand inviting him to visit France, and that he had accepted the invitation with pleasure and hoped he would soon be able to make the trip.

Li sent a message on the same day to President Francois Mitterrand, extending sincere congratulations to Mitterrand and all those in France who have devoted themselves to the cause of Sino-French friendship.

Diplomatic relations were established between China and France with the personal solicitude of Chairman Mao Zedong, Premier Zhou Enlai and General Charles de Gaulle. This event turned a new page in the annals of Sino-French relations and has important and positive international repercussions.

"Over the past 20 years, the relations between the two countries have been crowned with gratifying results in the political, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, and their co-operation



President Li Xian-nian (right) with distinguished French guests.

## Relations With France Celebrated

China and France held several official receptions to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between them. The anniversary was on Jan. 27.

Representatives of the French Government Louis Mexandeau, Minister-Delegate in Charge of Posts and Telecommunications in the Ministry of Industry and Research, and Roger Gerard Schwartzberg, Secretary of State for Education, and a delegation from the Foreign Affairs Com-

mittee of the French National Assembly led by its president Claude Estier, came to China for the celebration.

On Jan. 26, President Li Xian-nian, speaking at a banquet to celebrate the anniversary, said that China and France share many points in common.

"Both countries follow an independent policy, listening to no orders from others," Li said. "Both hold that international affairs can be solved only through

has grown more extensive and on an ever-larger scale," Li said.

He said he was convinced that if the two countries work together as always, relations between them are bound to develop steadily

Mitterrand also sent a message of greetings to Li, which read in part: "Our nations, two permanent members of the Security Council, are concerned about their security and national independence, are anxious to contribute to the creation of a new world economic order and are conscious of their responsibilities in the defence of peace. The road traversed in the past 20 years is remarkable. But if we remain anxious to preserve the heritage of the past, we should equally look forward. Our political dialogue should be intensified. It is, as a whole, on the big international problems that we should develop our consultations and co-ordinate with each other."

Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, meeting with Estier's delegation on Jan. 24, said that the establishment of diplomatic relations had brought great benefit to the two countries and he hoped to see still greater development of bilateral friendly co-operation in the next 20 years.

Hu, in a message of greetings aired by Radio Beijing and Central Television Station of China to the French people, said that France was the first big Western power to establish official diplomatic relations with New China.

The Chinese people to this day have profound admiration for General de Gaulle's courage and farsight in making this major diplomatic decision on behalf of the French people, Hu said

"From that time on, our two countries have maintained mutual trust and constant exchange of visits," he said. "Presidents Georges Pompidou, Valéry Giscard

d'Estaing and Francois Mitterrand have visited China, pushing the friendship of our two countries steadily forward"

The two countries love national independence and have an interest in each other's affairs, Hu said. Many people in France have shown great interest in the political stability, economic prosperity, reunification and security of China. China will strive to make its cause more successful.

"The Chinese people also follow the development of the situation in Europe," Hu said. "Experience shows that a weak and divided Europe is not conducive to security in Europe and stability throughout the world. A strong and united Europe, which takes its destiny into its own hands, is not only able to safeguard the security and prosperity of European countries but also make tremendous contributions to world peace and stability. The Chinese people be-

lieve that France, which has a glorious history and enjoys great prestige, can naturally play its special role in the cause."

Referring to Sino-French economic, scientific and technical exchanges and co-operation, Hu said that in recent years the two countries have signed a dozen co-operation agreements in these areas and in civil aviation and maritime transport.

The 1983 total volume of bilateral trade was 15 times that in 1964, and Hu hoped the two countries will increase co-operation in these fields.

Cao Keqiang, Chinese Ambassador to France, hosted a reception in France to mark the anniversary. President Mitterrand, Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and President of the National Assembly Louis Mermaz attended. President Mitterrand hosted a reception for Cao Keqiang at l'Elysee on Jan. 27 to mark the event.

## Hu Yaobang on International Affairs

On Jan. 24, three days before the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and France, Hu Yaobang, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, met with a group of French reporters, who came to China to cover the celebrations. Hu commented on some major international issues.

**Chad.** China hopes that all factions in the country would reach a reconciliation with the help of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and that France would closely co-operate with the OAU to promote their unity. Hu said.

**The Middle East.** Hu expressed the hope that Lebanon would solve its problems independently. It is not good for foreign troops to stay there too long, he said.

**Kampuchea.** "We said five years ago that Viet Nam would never succeed in its attempts by sending troops to occupy Kampuchea," he said. "But the Vietnamese leaders refused to listen to our advice. In the past two or three years, we reiterated over and over again that we would restore good-neighbour relations with Viet Nam immediately when it withdraws its troops from Kampuchea. However, there has so far been no sign of the Vietnamese leaders' intention to listen to our advice."

Hu said, "We agree to the proposal that, after Viet Nam's withdrawal of its troops, Kampuchea is to become a democratic, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned country under international supervision.

"China fully supports this reasonable stand, which represents the unanimous views of the ASEAN countries. But it now appears that Viet Nam has no intention to withdraw its troops. France can do something in this direction."

Continuation of the current situation brings misery not only to the Kampuchean people but to the Vietnamese people as well, he said.

**Disarmament.** When asked whether China supports disarmament and would play a role in easing the tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, Hu said, "It is our sincere hope that the Soviet Union and the United States would settle their disputes through negotiations and ease international tension."

This is also the strong desire and demand of people throughout the world, he said.

The Communist Party of China, the Chinese Government and people will endorse and support any proposal that helps maintain world peace, he added.

**China's attitude towards the United States and the Soviet Union.** "Our attitude towards the two countries is based on our analysis of facts," Hu said. China is willing to develop friendly relations with all countries on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

He said that during his visit to Japan last November he had remarked harshly on inappropriate actions taken by the United States. "We eased up the atmosphere after the US Government made clarifications," he said. He stressed that the Chinese leaders are unanimous on China's policy towards the United States.

Asked whether there is any possibility of a rapprochement between China and the Soviet Union, Hu said, "Of course there exists

such possibility and it is also our hope. We are sincerely for normalization of our relations with the Soviet Union, but it's a pity that no substantial progress has been made so far in this respect."

The reason may lie in the fact that the two countries hold different views on various issues, Hu said.

"I have been involved in political activities for over half a century," Hu said. "From my own observation and experience in international exchanges, anyone who regards himself the most clever and omnipotent will never be successful with that kind of attitude."

## Finnish Minister Visits China

Paavo Vayrynen, who arrived in Beijing on Jan. 28, is the first Finnish foreign minister to visit China. His visit has brought Sino-Finnish friendship to a new stage.

At a meeting with Vayrynen in Beijing on Jan. 30, Premier Zhao Ziyang said Finland was one of the first Western countries to establish diplomatic relations with China. Economic co-operation between China and Finland has been good, but there is still great potential to be tapped, he added.

Premier Zhao showed understanding and support of Finland's positive policies for peace and neutrality. The two countries share similar views on many international issues, he said.

Vayrynen said it was very important to know China's position on international issues, because China is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Finland and China could co-operate more closely in defence of world peace, he said.

Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian

talked with Vayrynen on Jan. 29. The two ministers expressed wishes to expand exchanges and co-operation between their countries in various ways in many fields. They also exchanged views on the current European situation, disarmament and other international issues. The next day they signed a cultural agreement between the Governments of China and Finland.

## China, Holland Upgrade Relations

China and the Netherlands, after friendly consultations, have agreed to restore their diplomatic relations to the ambassadorial level.

A joint communique signed on Feb. 1 by Zhou Nan, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for China, and Henry Wijnaendts, Ambassador-at-large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Netherlands, reported China's appreciation of the Netherlands Government's decision not to grant a permit for further export of arms to Taiwan.

"The two sides," the communique said, "reaffirm the principles established in the joint communique of the two governments on May 16, 1972 and agree to restore, on the basis of these principles, the level of their respective diplomatic missions in the two countries from offices of charges d'affaires to embassies as of February 1, 1984."

In May 1981, the Chinese Government downgraded diplomatic relations between the two countries from the level of embassy to that of charge d'affaires office after the Dutch Government approved the sale of submarines to Taiwan, which violated the principle set forth in the 1972 joint communique on the upgrading of diplomatic relations between it and China.



Stockholm

## European Disarmament Conference

by REN YAN

THE Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe ended three and a half days of the ministerial meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, on Jan. 20 in discord.

Thirty-five foreign ministers from the European countries (except Albania), the United States and Canada explained their governments' views on the current international situation and made various proposals on establishing mutual trust in military matters. All the participants—who belong to the big Western and Eastern military blocs, or are neutral or non-aligned—could not easily establish a harmonious atmosphere.

US Secretary of State George Shultz and his Soviet counterpart Andrei Gromyko blamed each other in their speeches for suspending the East-West nuclear disarmament talks and intensifying international tensions. Gromyko, highly critical of US foreign policy, described it as "thinking in terms of war and acting accordingly." The Stockholm press commented that the icy international climate is far from a thaw, in view of the foreign ministers' speeches at the meeting.

Shultz and Gromyko met for closed-door talks for more than five hours on Jan. 18, but achieved nothing towards easing tense East-West relations or resuming the Geneva talks on intermediate-range nuclear forces. People had thought this Stockholm meeting would provide an opportunity of resum-

ing the talks, but the Soviets continued to insist they will not come to the negotiating table unless NATO removes the newly deployed US medium-range missiles in Western Europe.

In their statements, the foreign ministers of neutral and non-aligned countries expressed their great concern over the arms race between the two superpowers and urged them to take the responsibility for safeguarding world peace and security. They said that under the present circumstances, the Stockholm meeting faces a difficult and complex task.

NATO and Warsaw Pact countries differed sharply over the agenda of the conference. The list of Warsaw Pact proposals is long. It includes a non-aggression pact, a treaty banning first use of nuclear arms, a freeze on new nuclear deployment, creation of nuclear-free zones, freezes and reductions in the military budget and extension of advance notification for major military exercises and deployment.

NATO countries put forward a series of measures on exchanging

military information to reduce the threat of war. The representatives of these countries have made veiled accusations against the Warsaw Pact countries of big words but empty talk.

During the meeting foreign ministers of various countries made tentative bilateral contacts. It is of interest to note that during their talks the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany Hans-Dietrich Genscher and the Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic Oskar Fischer said they would be ready to negotiate.

Swedish Foreign Minister Lenart Bodstrom told reporters Gromyko assured him during their meeting that there will be no obstacles on the Soviet side to restoring the Vienna talks on mutual and balanced conventional force reductions in Europe. The Swedish Government believes this is the only promising sign to come out of the ministerial meeting.

The conference will go into closed session from Jan. 23 to Mar. 16 to discuss concrete measures for building mutual confidence between the East and West. It is expected that sharp debates will continue.

### Latin America

## Wars Yesterday and Tomorrow

by KE DAAN

LATIN America has been plagued by one war after another. In the wake of the Malvinas conflict in 1982, Grenada was set aflame the following year.

In 1982, Britain dispatched troops across the Atlantic to pre-

vent Argentina from restoring its sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands. Last year, the United States, setting aside the principles governing normal international relations, invaded a sovereign, although tiny, country, the new government of which was not to its liking. The two wars reflected sharpening North-South disputes

and the escalating superpower interference in this region.

The Malvinas war politically divided the Latin American continent and the rest of the world into two opposing camps. At the critical juncture of the war, Washington switched from its role as a mediator to imposing an embargo on Argentina, giving Britain military and economic superiority. In fact, the two big Western powers joined forces to bully a third world country.

In the Grenada invasion, a military power invaded another country with the lame excuse of safeguarding its people living there and under the banner of saving "democracy." It illustrates that "gunboat diplomacy" has not disappeared.

Of course, one can see from the two wars that the superpowers are always in the background, locked in the scramble for world hegemony. A common feature in both of them is that the aggressors were big military powers equipped with sophisticated weapons, while the victims were small developing countries.

One of the striking lessons Latin American countries should draw from the two wars is that they cannot look to big powers to maintain their independence and security. The Malvinas war has shown that in questions of North-South confrontation, Washington regards Britain as its real ally, not Argentina—a country which, as a member of the Organization of American States, is supposed to be under the protection of the "Pan-Americanism" advocated by the United States.

The Grenada invasion clearly shows how the superpowers act solely in their global strategic interests. If they think their interests are threatened, they do not hesitate to engage in military aggression and abandon their

"friends." If small countries are involved in superpower rivalry, they will always be put in peril.

For many third world countries, one of the major questions they face is how to fight off superpower intervention and keep clear of their contention.

Shortly after Grenada invasion, Surinam stopped pursuing exclusive relations with Cuba. Costa Rica also declared itself permanently neutral. In short, Latin American countries have stopped relying on Pan-Americanism, as they did in the past, and are beginning to join the Non-Aligned Movement. Their denunciations of the superpowers' rivalry in the region are growing much stronger.

The Latin American people are now worried whether war, like a god of plague, will continue to haunt them in 1984. The Nicaraguan people are preparing for a possible US invasion, and Washington avoids addressing this subject altogether.

US President Ronald Reagan set Central America as the first battle ground with the Soviet Union when he took office, pledging to restore the prestige of the United States and resist the Soviet challenge throughout the world. He

said the United States was resolved to draw the line against the Soviet Union in El Salvador. Today, Reagan's attitude remains unchanged. He naturally makes people believe that it is only a question of time before the United States takes military action in Central America. Some analysts say that since Washington sees it as urgent to try to shore up the Salvadoran Government, it will pressure Nicaragua to refrain from backing Salvadoran guerrillas. If this strategy doesn't work, the United States is likely to invade El Salvador to wipe out the guerrilla forces.

It does not seem to be groundless speculation that a war involving the superpowers might break out in Latin America this year.

If a war breaks out in Central America, it will likely surpass the Malvinas war and the Grenada invasion in size and in complexity, possibly affecting all of Latin America. However, many factors will decide when and how the United States enters into another war, and whether it can succeed.

At present, the Contadora Group is working to eliminate foreign intervention, hoping to attain a peaceful solution to the Central American problem.

### **Third World**

## **Overcoming Economic Difficulties**

by TAN FENG

**L**AST year saw many third world countries making some progress in overcoming their economic difficulties, despite measures by the Western countries to shift the economic crisis on to them.

In the past year, South-South co-operation has been greatly strengthened with more different forms of co-operation appearing

In Asia, the five members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations not only have strengthened internal co-operation, but also developed economic co-operation with Arab countries. The seven countries in South Asia have steadily enhanced their economic co-operation. Many Arab countries have provided African countries with funds.

Regional co-operation in Africa has been the most important dev-



A view of a cigarette factory in Cameroon.

velopment in the past year. The newly established Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States have both enlarged their ranges of co-operation. In Latin America, economic co-operation has produced positive results

Professional and producer organizations and financial and coordinating institutions in the third world have developed rapidly and vigorously. Multi-national corporations owned and operated by third world countries mushroomed, reaching more than 1,900. The scope of South-South co-operation has extended from regional to general spheres, including trade, technology and capital.

Some Latin American countries followed austerity programmes to check their debt crises. Their current account deficits dropped from US\$31,700 million in 1982 to \$12,600 million in 1983

### Root Cause

Since the beginning of 1983, economic recovery has appeared in the main capitalist countries, but many serious problems in the developing countries caused by the West shifting its economic crisis have not been solved yet

In the past few years, the average economic growth rate of the third world has slowed down consistently, dropping 0.6 per cent last year. In the Asian-Pacific region, although the economic growth rate was estimated to reach 4.7 per cent in 1983, many countries, with the exception of China, India and some new emerging industrial nations, experienced an economic slowdown. Other raw-material exporting countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand suffered heavily because of lower prices on world markets

Constant warfare and the sharp drop in the world oil price have brought serious economic losses to the Middle Eastern countries.

In 1981, the Gulf oil-exporting countries had a current account surplus of US\$60,700 million, which dropped to US\$8,700 million in 1982. Their deficit in international payments may reach US\$20,700 million in 1983. The total value of oil and non-oil production in the Gulf area was estimated to plummet 7.1 per cent last year.

Africa saw a marked deterioration of economic conditions in 1983. The serious drought continued, bringing starvation to many.

The economic growth rate dropped 2 per cent in the past year and foreign debt reached US\$60,000 million. The inflation rate in many African countries rose beyond 100 per cent.

The prominent problem in Latin America was still massive foreign debt. The total foreign debt in developing countries was nearly US\$700,000 million, of which Brazil, Mexico and Argentina accounted for about one-third.

The root cause for the grave economic difficulties in developing countries is the old, unreasonable international economic order. Many developing countries have emphasized the necessity to combine the struggle for restructuring the old international economic order with the settlement of their most urgent economic problems.

The relationship between the North and the South is entering a new phase. The developed countries can no longer neglect the existence of the developing countries, on whose markets they rely more and more. Exports to third world countries constitute 40 per cent of the total volume of foreign trade in most developed countries, and their investment markets are mostly in the third world. The debt crisis in developing countries has greatly shaken the whole international monetary and financial system. Many West European countries have learnt the importance of improving the relationship between the North and the South. The "North-South committee" has sent a letter to leaders of all countries calling for urgent measures to help developing countries extricate themselves from their economic difficulties.

However, the North-South dialogue in 1983 did not break the deadlock. The sixth session of UNCTAD held last June was the most important North-South dialogue since the Cancun Conference in October 1981. The developing

countries attending the Cancun Conference demanded that the developed countries adopt a co-operative attitude towards settling the existing urgent problems and promoting North-South negotiations, improving the relations between the developing and developed countries and speeding up the process of establishing a new international economic order.

But some developed countries, especially the United States, refused to accept any substantive measures and to undertake any obliga-

tions. As a result, no progress was made.

Looking at the prospects for North-South relations, one sees little possibility of reforming international economic relations through negotiations. But some improvement may appear in the areas of trade, debt, assistance, and development. The developing countries can hope to bring North-South negotiations on to the right path only by strengthening their collective self-reliance and developing their national economies through South-South co-operation.

## India

# Energy Imports and Balance Of Payments

by LI WENZHENG

**E**NTERING 1984, India is experiencing a better, though still unsatisfactory, economic situation.

In fiscal 1983, which will end March 31, 1984, the GNP growth rate is estimated to be 2 per cent. India's balance of payments has improved, with deficits sliding from US\$3,800 million in 1982 to US\$3,400 million now. This fiscal year, of the US\$1,500 million allotted in special loans by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India has drawn only US\$1,200 million. All this suggests that the serious imbalance of international payments has relaxed somewhat, thereby alleviating the squeeze on Indian finances caused by heavy fuel imports.

During the past decade, India's balance of international payments has been held hostage to its energy imports, particularly oil. The two world oil crises have obviously saddened the Indian economy with

growing burdens. The rise in oil prices in 1979 came at the same time as India was suffering a crop failure caused by natural disasters, thus compounding its economic difficulties.

As the 1980s began, the world oil shortage gradually eased. Nevertheless, because oil occupies a disproportionate share of India's energy sources, the red ink has not been greatly reduced.

Other factors are also responsible for the serious imbalance. Agriculture often fails to meet expectations, compelling the country to import grain in bulk. Industry moves slowly. Also, India has to import raw materials and capital goods and introduce modern technology and equipment in order to expand production. This leaves it dependent on the world market, bringing additional pressure to bear on its balance of international payments.

For years, India has been searching for energy resources other than oil, but without much success. The

nuclear power stations it has built are not generating as much electricity as expected, and coal output has been fluctuating around just 100 million tons. It is unlikely for India to be independent of imported oil in the foreseeable future.

During the first three years of the sixth five-year plan (1981-85), the Indian Government has made strenuous efforts to alter the unfavourable economic situation caused by the imbalance of payments.

To solve the nagging problem, the government has decided to exploit oil resources at home, nationalize the domestic market by cutting off imports and draw in as much foreign capital and assistance as possible.

Indian oil production has relatively bright prospects, due to unrelenting efforts in the past few years. Production of crude oil is expected to reach 26 million tons by the end of the current fiscal year, meeting three-fourths of the domestic demand. Oil imports have declined from 12.9 million tons in 1982 to 9.1 million tons today.

The Import-Substitution strategies India has adopted to solve the imbalance have had some success. The use of Indian-made products is encouraged. A growing number of cars, trucks, machine tools and other consumer goods are being produced to replace imported items. This approach in a third world country certainly deserves praise, and has gone a long way towards improving India's balance of payments.

These policies have helped India keep out of a debt crisis. However, the recovery of world economy is slow and protectionism is growing stronger. These, plus lack of domestic funds and inefficient use of equipment and installations, require India's sustained efforts to achieve a balance of international payments.



# Workers' Movement Enters a New Period

Ni Zhifu, President of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions and Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, talked about the tasks and functions of China's trade unions in his interview with our correspondent Jing Wei

## International Exchanges

**Question:** First, I'd like to know more about the international exchanges of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions.

**Answer:** Since the Ninth Congress of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions in 1978, our international exchanges have increased as a result of the policy of opening to the outside world. We have restored relations with foreign trade unions, which were suspended during the "cultural revolution." We have also established friendly relationships with many foreign trade unions with whom we had no contact before. We have now established contacts with more than 120 national or regional union organizations. Last year the All-China Federation of Trade Unions resumed its activities in the International Labour Organization.

Exchanges with foreign trade unions take various forms. These include the exchanges of letters and trade union periodicals and of delegations for friendly visits to each other's countries; the swapping of information and of ideas on questions of common concern; the co-sponsorship of technical exchanges between members; as well as the exchanges of delegations of reporters and investigators, who look into certain interesting subjects. Over the past few years, for instance, we have done this with the unions in Yugoslavia, with good results. At the invitation of some African trade unions, we've also sent reporters to introduce the activities of China's



trade unions. Our delegations were invited to the trade union congresses of some Asian, African, Latin American and European countries.

Our delegates also attended many international meetings, including those supporting the people's struggles of Palestine, Namibia and South Africa, the international trade union meetings on development and the preparatory meeting for the Asian communications and transport trade union.

While building their own country, the Chinese working people, who have won their liberation, always stand side by side with the world's proletariat and oppressed people, supporting their just struggle and making contributions to the defence of the rights and interests of the working class, to world peace and to the progress of humanity. This is our internationalist duty. Taking this opportunity, through *Beijing Review*, I'd like to express the greetings of the Chinese working class

to the workers in various countries. I wish them every success in their struggle for their own rights and interests, against foreign interference and for world peace.

## New Tasks for Modernization

**Q:** What is the main task of the Chinese workers' movement and the trade unions in the drive for socialist modernization?

**A:** It was decided at the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party in 1978 that the emphasis of the country's work would be shifted to economic construction, centred on the four modernizations. In the next two decades of this century, we plan to quadruple the gross annual value of China's industrial and agricultural production, while steadily increasing economic results, and build China into a powerful socialist country with a highly developed democracy and culture. This is the general task of the whole nation, and is in the basic interests of the workers. As the class in power, the Chinese workers should serve as the main force behind the modernization drive and make great contributions.

As a mass organization representing the country's leading class, the trade union should make every worker and staff member perceive their duty to continue the revolutionary tradition and give play to their role as the main force in the development of China's material welfare and socialist culture and ethics.



Liang Pei (second from left), special delegate from the Aomen Federation of Trade Unions, speaks at the 10th Congress of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions in October 1983.

This is the main task of the Chinese workers' movement and trade unions in the new period.

### Defending the Workers' Interests

**Q:** The Constitution says that the working class is the leading class of the state. How does the trade union, a mass organization of this class, represent and defend the workers' rights and interests?

**A:** The Chinese workers have become masters of New China. They take part in the administration of state affairs, and, in particular, institute democratic management in enterprises. This is the basic and most important right of Chinese workers and staff.

First, workers make up a considerable proportion in organs of state power—the national and local people's congresses at various levels. On behalf of the workers and staff, they examine, discuss and decide upon major state affairs, and make proposals to defend the workers' interests.

Second, trade unions above the county level, together with other relevant departments, work out

rules and regulations for labour protection, wages and bonuses, welfare and education, and other affairs concerning the interests of workers and staff. They also supervise their implementation.

Third, as a people's organization, the trade union occupies an important place in various local committees of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (united front organization) where trade union council members discuss state affairs with members of various democratic parties and people's organizations.

Fourth, the trade unions mobilize workers and staff to take part in democratic management of their own enterprises. This is an important duty, as well as a manifestation of the workers' and staff's rights as masters.

It is also routine for the trade unions at all levels to urge administrative departments to solve urgent problems in the workers' and staff's daily lives, such as housing, child care and welfare subsidies. The trade unions should do their best to help the workers and staff members, keeping their well being in mind and fighting against

bureaucracy, which hurts the workers' democratic rights.

### Democratic Management

**Q:** Can you tell me how the Chinese workers and staff members take part in enterprise management?

**A:** The Chinese workers and staff members take part in managing their enterprises mainly through workers' congresses. This is laid down in the Constitution. In 1981, the state published "Provisional Regulations for the Workers' and Staff Members' Congress," which says the congress is the power organ where the masses participate in the enterprise management and decision-making, and supervise the work of cadres. The grass-roots trade unions are working bodies of these congresses. The State Council has called on all enterprises to establish this system.

**Q:** What have been the results so far?

**A:** We've made some progress during the past two years. About 200,000 enterprises and other units across the country have set up this kind of congress. Among the big and medium-sized enterprises, where the system is rather popular, a quarter have done well with democratic management.

**Q:** What are the criteria of efficient democratic management?

**A:** The criteria are as defined in the regulations. Major items such as production planning, management, and budgets and final accounts are all discussed and decided by the workers' congress. Problems closely linked with interests, such as housing distribution, regulations for rewards and punishment, use of welfare funds, etc., are decided by the congress through discussion. Wage increases, workers' training plans, and major rules and regulations for the factory, are discussed at the congress before they are put

into practice. The congress should also supervise the enterprise leaders' work, praising the good and criticizing the bad.

**Q:** Are there any problems?

**A:** Of course there are also many problems. First, some enterprises have not yet established the workers' congress system. Second, quite a number of congresses are not playing their role efficiently, and, even worse, in a few enterprises, the congress does not function at all.

To improve this situation, the 10th Congress of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions adopted the following measures to promote the popularization of democratic management in enterprises.

— We will urge those businesses without congresses of workers and staff members to establish the system as soon as possible, taking this as one of the major considerations in the assessment of enterprises.

— We will popularize the system of assessing leaders through workers' congresses, and urge more enterprises to choose their leaders at various levels through democratic elections.

— We will see to it that the enterprises will, in line with the regulations, give play to the role of the congress as an organ of power. Leaders of enterprises must seriously implement the decisions of the congresses of workers and staff.

— The All-China Federation of Trade Unions will co-operate with the competent departments and give specific guidance to enterprises, so as to gradually perfect the system of democratic management.

### Training Workers

**Q:** You have stressed the importance of raising the scientific and technological level of the workers in the modernization drive. What will the trade unions do in this field?

**A:** The present scientific and technological level of China's workers and staff cannot meet the demand of the modernization drive. For instance, engineers and technicians make up only 3 per cent of all employees in industrial departments. About a quarter of the workers never finished junior middle school, and they need supplementary classes in liberal arts and technology. This is an urgent problem we must deal with.

In describing a trade union in a socialist country, Lenin said, "It is an organization designed to draw in and to train; it is, in fact, a school; a school of administration, a school of economic management, a school of communism." During the new period, trade unions at various levels will pay more attention to training workers and staff members, helping relevant departments and institutes in government and business run their spare-time schools effectively, solving problems and defending the workers' right to an education.

There are now more than 50,000 workers' schools, with 11 million students. Adding those enrolled in radio and TV universities, correspondence colleges and various short-term courses, the figure may reach 20 million, or about one-fifth of all workers and staff in China.

We'll also train the trade union cadres in rotation. The Cadres School of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions will become a college of the workers' movement, where trade union leaders above the county level will be trained, while cadres' schools of provincial trade unions will train leaders for grass-roots trade unions.

### Are Strikes Illegal?

**Q:** The new Constitution has eliminated the regulations on strikes. Does this mean all strikes are illegal?

**A:** No, it doesn't mean that. But we are not in favour of solving problems through strikes, because they end up hurting the workers' interests.

In socialist China, the working class is the leading class of the country, and the businesses belong to either the state or the collective. There is no conflict of basic interests between the state, the enterprise and the individual. To defend their rights and interests,

Dong Xiangge, vice-president of the Beijing Yili Bakery and Confectionery, is active in running the factory's kindergarden.



the workers can solve their problems through the democratic channels mentioned before. It is not necessary for them to go on strike.

I'll give you an example. Not long ago, several workers in a colour printing house in the city of Siping, Jilin Province, lost their fingers on the job because the deputy director did not care about the workers' safety. Li Yan, a deputy president of the factory's trade union, criticized him, asking him to take necessary safety measures. Instead of correcting his mistakes, the deputy director retaliated against Li Yan. Angered, the workers sent an accusation against this bureaucrat to the higher-level trade union and the Party paper. Soon after, the higher-level Party committee and trade union sent people to look into the matter. As a result, the deputy director was dismissed from his post and punishment was meted out according to law. The

safety facilities were installed, and Li Yan was praised as "a just and brave trade union cadre." Last October, she attended the 10th National Congress of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, and was elected an alternate member of its executive committee.

Another example was the capsize of the oil rig *Bohai No. 2* on November 25, 1979, in which 72 people died and the state lost a lot of property. It was *Gongren Ribao* (Workers' Daily), the newspaper of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, which first made the facts of this case public. Through judicial procedures, those directly responsible were sent to prison and the Minister of the Petroleum Industry was forced to resign.

Fighting bureaucracy is one of the tasks set by the 10th congress, and this is resolutely supported by the Party and government. When the workers or their trade union

find something in the production process which endangers the workers' safety, they warn the administrative personnel. In cases where bureaucrats do not heed the warning, the trade union may stop production or organize the workers to abandon a dangerous area. This is our special way of fighting against bureaucracy.

**Q:** Since the working class is the most advanced class, why do you still stress educating the workers in communist ideology?

**A:** Although the working class is the most advanced and disciplined class, workers cannot grasp the ideology of scientific communism automatically. Only through conscientious study can the workers get a better understanding of the scientific ideology which defines their historical mission, and become a conscious motive force of history.

Another reason why we emphasize education is that with the

The cultural centre of the Xibei No. 2 Cotton Mill, Shaanxi Province.





## A Brief Survey of Chinese Workers

Since the founding of New China in 1949, great changes have taken place in all aspects of the life of Chinese workers, who had experienced untold sufferings from the oppression of imperialism, feudalism and comprador capitalism.

**Number of workers increased.** By the end of 1982, the total number of workers and staff in China had reached 112.81 million, a 14-fold increase over the 8.09 million in 1949. The number of women workers and staff increased much more quickly, from 600,000 in 1949 to 40.93 million in 1982, an increase of 68-fold.

**Educational level raised.** Prior to liberation, the educational level of Chinese workers and staff was rather low and illiteracy was quite widespread. According to a survey conducted in 1957, illiterate people accounted for 20.7 per cent of the total number of workers; people with a primary school education, 59 per cent; those with middle school education, 19.1 per cent; and those with college and university education, only 1.2 per cent.

Now, satisfactory improvement has been achieved. According to a sample survey in 1982, the proportion of workers who had acquired middle school education

climbed up to 72.2 per cent, and those with college and university education accounted for 4.3 per cent, whereas the proportion of illiterate people and people with only primary school education had dropped to 1.6 per cent and 21.7 per cent respectively.

**Income and other material benefits raised.** In recent years, the living standards of Chinese workers and staff have been improved markedly. Thanks to pay rises, the implementation of a bonus system and the expansion of employment, the average annual per-capita income in families of workers and staff has increased 38 per cent in the last four years.

The workers also enjoy labour insurance. Funds for labour insurance are all paid by the state and enterprises. Not only do the workers themselves enjoy free medical care, but their direct relatives (parents, sons and daughters, and spouses) can also see doctors by paying only half of the needed medical fees.

Pensions for retired workers have also been raised from 35-60 per cent of their wages in the early 1950s to 60-80 per cent at present.

Various living subsidies have been issued by the state to workers

These include housing, transportation, subsidy for travelling expenses for those visiting their relatives, home heating in winter, price subsidy for grain and vegetables and a health subsidy for single-child workers' families. The state and enterprises have also set up a large number of cultural palaces for workers, sanatoriums, canteens, kindergartens, nurseries and other welfare services. These subsidies and expenditures on public welfare services and labour insurance are roughly equal to the average wages and incomes of the workers and staff.

**Dependency coefficient lowered.** With more people given jobs and progress made in family planning, the average dependency coefficient for workers' families in 1982 dropped to 1.73 (including the worker himself), while in 1957, it was 3.58.

**More trade union members.** By 1982, grass-roots trade union organizations had been established in almost all enterprises throughout the country, which had a total labour force of 85.866 million. The number of trade union members reached 73.316 million, accounting for 85.3 per cent of the total work force. In 1949, however, enterprises which established trade unions had only 6.108 million workers and staff, of whom 2.374 million were trade union members, accounting for only 38.9 per cent.

retirement of the veteran workers. A lot of young people have joined the army of the working class. Sixty per cent of the workers and staff were employed after the "cultural revolution." Having grown up during these years, they were not oppressed and exploited in the old society, and they lack a systematic knowledge of communism. Furthermore, since the implementation of the policy of

opening to the outside world, some of them have been influenced by decadent bourgeois ideas, and a few workers and staff members do not observe discipline, neglect their duties and even seek private gains through work.

The trade unions must educate their members with communist ideas, so as to help them see their historical mission, overcome nega-

tive influences and devote themselves to the socialist construction. Through education, the Chinese working class will become a well-educated and disciplined mass with lofty ideals and morality. They will be pioneers in developing China's material wealth and socialist culture and ethics, and will consequently better fulfil their duties as the leading class of the nation.

# How China Handles Civil Disputes

With more and more people seeking to defend their rights through legal channels and the nation's ever-growing exchanges with the outside world, people's courts in China are tackling a constant flow of civil disputes.

by ZHANG ZHIYE  
Our Correspondent

CHINA'S current Law of Civil Procedure (draft) is one of the most concise and easy to understand in the world. With 23 chapters and 205 articles, it is the world's shortest, with the exception of the Mongolian People's Republic. This makes it easy for the broad masses to understand civil procedures. And because the law is procedural, it ensures the implementation of all civil, economic and other related administrative laws.

The draft law, published in March 1982, has been enforced on a trial basis since October of that year with good results. Reports from all over China show that this unique law enables the courts to handle civil cases easily, quickly and fairly.

## New Situation

In China the majority of lawsuits are civil. The various people's courts handled 1.6 million civil cases at their first hearing, 100,000 cases in their second hearing and 23,000 appeals between 1980 and 1982. In some primary people's courts, such as those at the county level, almost all the cases are civil.

The number of civil cases has also been increasing every year, particularly those at first hearing. For example, in 1977, 53 per cent of all court cases were civil. By 1978, it was 67.2 per cent. It rose to 74.4 per cent in 1981 and 76.1 per cent in 1982. All these cases were officially registered after cognizance (both parties were formally notified), but in fact, many

civil disputes were solved through mediation by the court, and therefore did not come to trial and were never registered.

The rise in the number of civil cases is a normal phenomenon with a number of causes. Since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee in December 1978, the state has stepped up its work of building democracy and the legal system.

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***China's current Law of Civil Procedure is one of the most concise and easy to understand in the world. It enables the courts to handle civil cases effectively and fairly.***

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Now people seek to defend their rights through legal channels, which many dared not do during the "cultural revolution" for fear of getting into trouble.

With the current emphasis on economic construction, there is a big increase in economic contracts between businesses and organizations and the collective and individuals, particularly in the countryside. This leads to more economic disputes, which account for a big proportion of all civil cases.

Moreover, China has adopted an open policy in the past few years, and is actively developing economic exchanges with foreign countries. There is a growing number of disputes arising from these exchanges, including cases relating to foreign trade, joint ventures, maritime transportation, collision of ships, sea damage and accidents, capital construction, in-

surance, patent rights, trademarks and copyrights.

Following the growth of tourism in China, civil disputes relating to foreign affairs are also increasing. These cases which take place in China are under Chinese jurisdiction and are handled by the people's courts. Those which take place outside the country are also tried in the people's courts if both parties agree. At present, there are not many cases related to foreign affairs, but they constitute a growing proportion of civil disputes.

Cases dealing with support to old parents and looking after children are also increasing every year. In 1977 there were 1.6 per cent more of such cases than in 1976. In 1981 there were 3.7 per cent more than in 1980, and in 1982 the proportion rose by another 4.2 per cent over the previous year. A fairly large proportion of civil cases also deal with divorce, but this number is declining every year.

Although there is a rise in the proportion of disputes over compensation resulting from brawling, the cases dealing with property inheritance account for only 2 to 2.27 per cent of all civil cases.

## For the People's Convenience

The flexibility of the civil court system offers more convenience for the people. A variety of measures can be taken to settle lawsuits, so long as the facts are clearly investigated and proper procedures are adhered to.

The primary people's court and its dispatch court may use simplified procedures to hear civil cases which are not very complicated and present clear facts and

## A Case of Property Inheritance

SUN YOUYI, a 31-year-old sales clerk, had a dispute over property inheritance with her father. She appealed to the court, which tried the case openly.

Sun's father was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment in 1958 for swindling. Since 1973, he had worked on a labour reform farm. Sun's grandfather died of grief soon after his son was imprisoned. Sun and her elder sister lived under the care of their grandmother in a four-roomed house her grandfather had bought, until 1966 when the old woman passed away.

Sun Youyi said that her grandmother had bequeathed the four rooms to her and her sister. Since Sun's unmarried sister died of illness in 1970, Sun Youyi was entitled to inherit the entire house. But for several years Sun's father had tried to occupy part of the building, even after many discussions. So she brought the case to the court.

In the course of the court investigation, staff members were sent to the area to talk to Sun's neighbours, who helped willingly. Gradually, what had happened over the past 20 years became clear.

Sun's grandmother often told her neighbours that after her death she would leave her house to her granddaughters. In Chinese law, such an oral will is considered valid.

The court also found out that when the two granddaughters were left under the care of their grandmother, the old woman had

no income. She rented two of the rooms to two families, and she and her granddaughters lived on the rents. Even after Sun's father had served his sentence, he never supported his daughters, whom he was duty-bound to look after. When the grandmother fell ill, it was the two lodger families who paid her medical expenses. After the old woman passed away, these two families looked after the teenage girls, one in each family, till they were old enough to work. After Sun Youyi's sister died, the two families looked after Sun and helped her form a family of her own.

The court eventually held an open trial at a place near Sun Youyi's home. Many of her neighbours attended the hearing.

The court held that the house bought by Sun's grandfather was the common property of Sun's grandparents. After the death of the old man, both his wife and son had the right to inherit the property. But priority should be given to his wife, who had no other income than the rents and who was looking after the two grandchildren. Therefore, the grandmother had the right to dispose of the house. Her verbal will, testified to by several witnesses, was still valid.

The court decided that the house formerly owned by Sun's grandmother belonged to Sun Youyi. Since Sun's father failed to perform his duty of looking after his children, his request to inherit the house was denied.

When the trial came to an end, many participants praised the judges for being so fair. Sun's father agreed to the judgment and withdrew his request.





Hong Weizong (Hui nationality in white cap), a local CPPCC leader in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, is active in mediating disputes among the people and promoting national harmony.

few arguments. This kind of trial has three main characteristics:

1. The plaintiff may initiate an action orally, after which both parties go to a primary people's court or dispatch court for settlement. The court may hear the case immediately, or fix another date. Under the formal procedure, the plaintiff must lodge a bill of complaint with the people's court, copies of which will be given to the accused.

2. The litigants and witnesses may be called informally. For instance, when a judge is in a rural production brigade he may call the litigant over the loudspeaker, a system commonly used in rural areas.

3. One judge is sufficient to try a case under the simplified procedure. Under formal procedure, when the people's court tries a case in its first hearing, a judge and a people's assessor, or two judges must be present.

Of course, the simplified procedures still ensure a case is tried correctly, legally and promptly. Only those aspects which will not affect the nature of the trial have been simplified. Other proce-

dures, such as open hearings, a legal worker withdrawing from the case if he cannot remain impartial and second hearings without appeal are still upheld. And if, in the course of a simplified hearing, a case turns out to be more complicated than expected, it is then handled by more formal procedures.

In the early 1950s, to overcome the bureaucracy bogging down some courts and for the convenience of the people, many counties set up circuit courts in the countryside to settle civil disputes on the spot. This practice still continues, saving time and money for the litigants. It also enables lawyers and court officials to have closer contact with those involved in the case, further facilitating a prompt and fair solution. The current draft civil law endorses these circuit courts.

### Mediation First

In handling civil disputes, the court always tries to resolve contradictions through persuasion before bringing a case to trial. The chief method of handling civil cases therefore is mediation.

This practice was adopted even

before 1949 in the areas already under the Chinese Communist Party's control. This tradition has been continued, and at present 60 to 70 per cent of all civil cases have been resolved through mediation.

Either people's mediation committees or other organizations such as the litigants' work units, or the court itself may mediate in a case. The court may do so either while the hearing is being prepared, during the hearing, out of court, or when court is adjourned.

Mediation, which in no way impedes the rights of the litigants, is conducted strictly in line with the law. The following principles are emphasized during the arbitration process.

1. If a case can be settled by mediation, it should be conducted only after all the facts are made clear. Through arbitration both parties will then understand each other's position and reach an agreement.

2. Mediation by the people's court may be conducted by one judge or by a collegiate bench, on the spot if possible.

3. The court may ask people and organizations concerned to help arbitrate when necessary. They should assist the court when so requested.

4. The agreement reached through mediation should be acceptable to both parties.

5. If no agreement is reached after mediation, or if one party changes his mind before receiving a certificate of mediation, the court should try the case as soon as possible.

In fact, most civil disputes are settled outside the court, through arbitration by people's mediation committees. These groups were first formed in 1954, and there are now 800,000 such committees in China. Almost 11 times more civil disputes were settled by me-

## Mediation Settles a Divorce Case

**Z**HANG married Wang in 1964, and they had a boy and a girl. They often quarrelled because they were of different temperaments. In 1979, Zhang became acquainted with a married woman, and their frequent contacts led to more serious quarrels between husband and wife. Finally, they lived separately. In 1982 Zhang brought a suit to the court for a divorce. Wang disagreed and charged him with "abandoning his wife for loving the new and loathing the old" and asked the court for fair treatment.

After the case was accepted by the court, both parties appointed a lawyer. Instead of pursuing the individual interests of their clients in court, the lawyers worked together and tried to reason with the two parties.

Both lawyers agreed that Zhang and Wang got married voluntarily, but the marriage was not well founded. They did not really have deep feelings for each other, and their relationship gradually deteriorated because of endless quarrels. Although the primary reason for divorce was Zhang's change of heart, the two had not lived to-

gether in harmony for a long time. It was likely their conflicts would worsen.

The case had two possible outcomes — reconciliation or divorce. Although there was little hope of reunion, the lawyers tried their utmost to mediate. If their attempt for a reunion failed, they would continue mediation for a divorce.

The court and Zhang's lawyer first tried to reason with the husband. During mediation, they tactfully pointed out his shortcomings and mistakes, and stated the possibilities for reconciliation should he decide to change his mind. They suggested he consider his son and daughter, who were not yet adults, and the feelings of his wife, who had been with him for nearly 20 years. The judge and the lawyer even took time to visit Zhang personally.

The court and Wang's lawyer also talked to her, encouraging her to take the initiative to be on good terms with her husband.

Both sides were touched by the consideration of the judges and

the lawyers. Zhang admitted his mistakes and Wang acknowledged her shortcomings. But, as there were still deep differences between their temperaments, they could not agree to reunite. However the two became less antagonistic and were able to sit down and talk.

The lawyers then began to mediate for a divorce. They mainly spoke with Wang, asking her to consider the condition of her marriage. Even if the court decided on reconciliation, the conflicts would continue and there would be no happiness in the family. She finally came to understand that by opposing the divorce she was only prolonging her suffering.

Once Wang agreed to the divorce, everything was settled smoothly, including who would look after the children and the division of property. Zhang made some concessions to express his gratitude to the court and the lawyers. Both children stayed with their mother, so he gave Wang some money and bought her a television set.

The case was settled to the satisfaction of both the husband and wife. They thanked the judges and lawyers for their kindness and consideration.

mediation committees than by the courts.

Of course, arbitration by the people's mediation committee is not a part of civil procedure and is not called for in all cases. However, it is a component part of China's judicial system, and many civil disputes are resolved through mediation, greatly reducing the number of cases brought to court. For this reason the current draft law on civil procedure has a separate article dealing with people's

mediation committees, and the state is now working out regulations to govern them.

### Preventing Crime

Mediation has proved a good way to prevent crimes in handling civil cases. Quite a number of crimes, including serious ones such as murder, stem from civil disputes over marriage or property. Settling civil cases is therefore regarded as the first line of defence in preventing criminal activities.

In some cases the disputes are not very serious, and one party just wants to prove that he or she is right. With such cases, the court often calls in relatives and colleagues of both parties, who attend the hearing or try to persuade the litigants. Often the words of those close to them are more appealing and readily acceptable. The conflicting parties often calm down and become on good terms again.





A seaside view of the Jimei School Village, founded by Chen Jiageng.

## Education: Overseas Chinese Run Schools

To advance China's educational development, a multi-millionaire devoted all his wealth and energy, and a destitute worker donated the little amount he had squirrelled away over four decades. These and many other examples show in bold relief the patriotism of China's 20 million compatriots living overseas

by LI YONGZENG  
Our Correspondent

**D**ECADES ago, there was an overseas Chinese who was highly respected among people in his motherland. Although a millionaire 10 times over he contented himself with a life of spartan simplicity. Why? Whom did he bequeath his money to?

### Jimei School Village

He was Chen Jiageng (known overseas as Tan Kah Kee), born in 1874 in Jimei, a picturesque seaside town near the Xiamen Peninsula in southern Fujian Province. Today his tomb nestles amidst a

hundred towering, attractive buildings, which, interspersed with playgrounds and swimming pools, sprawl over several dozen hectares. It was the man's wealth and energy that made the place what it is today, a thriving educational centre composed of 10 schools.

When he was 17, Chen Jiageng left China and moved to Singapore with his father, a businessman. There he started his own business, mainly dealing with rubber and rubber products, eventually becoming a prosperous entrepreneur. But during his four decades abroad, the future of his motherland was always in his mind. Believing "education is the founda-

tion of a nation and establishing schools is the duty of all citizens," he set up a primary school in Jimei in 1915. After more than a decade of hard work, he established a teachers' training school, a middle school and schools of aquatic science, navigation, commerce and agriculture, complete with libraries, laboratories and a hospital. He called it Jimei School Village, an appropriate name. What with its comprehensive school system from kindergarten to college, boys and girls still enjoy equal opportunities for an education. He also ran an office in Jimei to arrange financial help for about 70 middle and primary schools in the province.



In 1920, Chen began a fund-raising campaign for the establishment of Xiamen University. He himself donated 1 million yuan, over and above an additional 3 million yuan to be paid in instalments over 12 years. As a result, Xiamen University was born, growing from a teachers' college and a college of commerce into a combination of five colleges with 17 departments.

By that time, Chen had virtually devoted all his wealth and energy to the Jimei School Village and Xiamen University. In 1937, when he ran into financial difficulties as a result of the worldwide economic crisis, he handed Xiamen University over to the government, no strings attached, while continuing to keep the Jimei School Village afloat. His enterprises abroad were closed down in 1938.

When Chen settled in Jimei after liberation in 1949, he was already in his late seventies. But his patriotism knew no bounds. Walk-

ing stick in hand, he would often inspect projects to restore school buildings seriously damaged during the long years of internal turmoil and war. He raised a substantial amount of funds, which, coupled with government assistance, enabled Xiamen University to double, and Jimei to triple, the floorspace of their buildings. Both have contributed significantly to China's educational development. During their heyday, the various schools in Jimei had a total of 12,000 students. Xiamen University, designated as one of the nation's key universities, has over the last few decades trained a vast contingent of outstanding people.

Chen Jiageng died in Beijing in August 1961. Before he died, he donated his savings of 3 million yuan to Jimei School Village. In all, he contributed 150 million yuan — based on the gold price at the time — to his motherland's educational undertakings. Small wonder Chairman Mao Zedong praised him as "a brilliant banner for overseas Chinese, a shining paragon of the nation."

### Good Tradition

Chen Jiageng was not the only devoted patriot among the Chinese

living abroad. In fact, our overseas compatriots have long been known for their love for and devotion to the country. All along, they have supported their motherland, from the Revolution of 1911, which toppled the Qing Dynasty, to the ongoing modernization drive.

Their contributions to China's education are most striking. As early as the late 19th century, when the Qing Dynasty abolished the imperial examination system, a number of overseas Chinese built schools and promoted Western science in Fujian. In the province's Jinjiang County, 53 of the 120 middle and primary schools existing during the years 1925-27 were opened by overseas Chinese. In Xiamen, 22 of the 50 primary and middle schools prior to the War of Resistance Against Japan received financial support from overseas Chinese.

After liberation, the Party and government encouraged overseas Chinese to run schools in their hometowns. By 1956, Fujian had 463 schools run by overseas Chinese, with 115,000 students. Development in this field ended abruptly during the "cultural revolution"

Children playing in the courtyard of the Jimei Kindergarten.





Students of the Jimei Navigation School being tested on simulators.

(1966-76). But afterwards, with the implementation of various correct government policies towards overseas Chinese, there has been a new upsurge in schools run by Chinese living abroad. In the last five years, school buildings with a total floorspace of 1,180,000 square metres have been built in Fujian and Guangdong with funds donated by overseas Chinese.

Of the estimated 20 million Chinese and their descendants living overseas, more than 50 per cent came from Guangdong and about 30 per cent from Fujian. In some counties in both provinces, over 40 per cent of the population has relatives overseas.

### Donations for Education

In Shishi Town, Fujian, there was an old man who left to make a living abroad when he was still a teenager. In 1949, he visited his hometown, where he helped turn an old temple into a primary school. With his own money, he purchased desks and chairs and paid the teachers' wages. For 29 years after that, he covered all the school's expenses. Before dying in 1978, he told his son, "To rejuvenate China, the most important

thing is to develop education."

His son, bearing these words in mind, remitted 300,000 yuan from abroad in 1982 for the school to expand, and has continued to provide the funds needed in keeping the school going. In Jinjiang County, where Shishi Town is located, 273 of the 447 middle and primary schools were established by overseas Chinese and have been financially assisted by them for two or three generations.

Another couple, named Li, visited their hometown in Nanan County 12 times in four years to build a first-rate school there. They chose the location, inspected the construction site and donated the needed funds. The school was soon built and became one of the best in the county.

The most touching story is perhaps that of Zhou Qingrong, 71, who moved to Xianggang (Hong Kong) from Shantou in Guangdong 33 years ago. There he made a living as a worker and a street pedlar. When he ran out of work, he simply made do by picking odds and ends from garbage heaps. Yet despite all hardships, he scraped together 10,000 HK dollars and gave them all to Shan-

tau University, whose cornerstone had just been laid. In response, the university erected a stone tablet so that his name and deeds could be remembered for ever.

Every penny donated by overseas compatriots is treasured and no effort is spared to run the schools built with their contributions well. In the central primary school of the Daji People's Commune, Xianyou County, a "Patriotic Building" funded by overseas Chinese was built in an unusually quick 70 days. In building the Qiaoguang Middle School in Nanan County, the local people took great care to economize on the money donated from overseas. By working as volunteers, the teachers and students reduced the construction expenses by 70,000 yuan. In Jinjiang County, when a primary school building with a floorspace of 2,000 square metres was being built at a cost of 2 million yuan, only 24 yuan was spent on managerial work and 72 yuan on transportation.

### Government Support

The government encourages and supports organizations of overseas Chinese and those living abroad to run, build or financially support schools in China, but it never importunes them to do so. Their wishes and opinions are duly respected.

Schools run by overseas Chinese are treated as equal to those run by the state but in addition they are granted certain preferential provisions. At present, schools run, built or supported by overseas Chinese usually have better school buildings and equipment but their teaching quality is not as good due to a lack of competent teachers. To solve the problem, the government has decided to strengthen the training of the teachers and gradually staff those schools with good teachers. Fujian has designated the Jimei Middle School and six other schools financed by overseas

# Century-Old Chinese

CHINA has 3,765 people entering their second century, according to a manual count of a 10 per cent sample from the third national census. More than twice as many, or 2,657 of the centenarians, are women.

Most live in rural areas of northwest, south-central and southwest China. Xinjiang has the most, with 66.1 centenarians per million. Tibet is next with 24.3 per million, then Qinghai with 12.8 and Guangxi with 11.1. Shanxi has the fewest, with just 0.2 per million people.

The minority nationalities had a higher proportion of those over 100: 21.7 per million, or 1,462 are members of minorities, while just 2.5 per million, or 2,303 are of the majority Han nationality.

The oldest person in the survey is a man of 130 named Kuerban-yasheng, a member of Tashilik Commune in Xinhe County, Xinjiang. Only 36 of the centenarians are over 120, representing just 0.96 per cent. Of the rest, 6.05 per cent, or 228 people, are aged between 110 and 119, and 92.99 per cent, or 3,501, are between 100 and 109.

Chinese as key schools. It has also demanded that the various counties choose one or two such schools as their key schools and do everything possible to run them well. In Guangdong, representatives of 35 schools supported by overseas Chinese recently met to exchange their experiences in raising the teaching quality.

These schools are usually run by boards of trustees, which may hire or fire school leaders and teachers and decide the pay for all employees. But like others, they im-

plement the state policies, principles, laws and regulations and accept the leadership of the local education administrative organs.

The property of schools run by overseas Chinese is protected by law. No unit or individual is allowed to appropriate their land and other property or embezzle or squander their funds.

The government has also stipulated that school buildings may be named according to the wishes of their benefactors. In the "cultural revolution," the names of

many schools run by overseas Chinese were changed; today they have all been restored. In places where the roots of the overseas Chinese are deep, every school receiving financial support from overseas has erected a stone tablet bearing the names of the benefactors, and every classroom is named after the man or woman who donated the money. In this way a student, once inside the school, naturally remembers his kin abroad and their contributions to the educational undertakings of his hometown.

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## China's Longevity Index

Statistics from the 10% sample survey only

Region	Longevity Index
<i>Average Longevity Index of 29 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions</i>	
	6.6
1. Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region	11.9
2. Zhejiang Province	9.0
3. Guangdong Province	8.6
4. Shanghai	7.9
5. Liaoning Province	7.7
6. Jiangsu Province	7.6
7. Beijing	7.4
8. Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region	7.4
9. Tibet Autonomous Region	7.3
10. Shandong Province	7.2
11. Tianjin	6.9
12. Fujian Province	6.6
13. Jilin Province	6.1
14. Hebei Province	6.0
15. Anhui Province	6.1
16. Henan Province	6.1
17. Sichuan Province	6.2
18. Hunan Province	6.0
19. Hubei Province	5.6
20. Guizhou Province	5.6
21. Heilongjiang Province	5.5
22. Jiangxi Province	5.4
23. Yunnan Province	5.3
24. Shanxi Province	4.4
25. Inner Mongolian Autonomous Region	4.4
26. Qinghai Province	4.4
27. Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region	4.2
28. Shanxi Province	3.5
29. Gansu Province	3.3

### Good Proportions Will Aid Efficiency

from "WEN ZHAI"  
(Digest)

Adjustments to four economic ratios will inevitably help raise efficiency, says an article titled "On Efficiency, Proportion and Speed" published in *Jingji Yanjiu* (Economic Research).

—The ratio between agriculture, light industry and heavy industry. Agriculture's share of the total economy should be slowly reduced over the next 10 years, while light industry's share should be increased by a small margin and heavy industry's rise should be limited. By 1990, the proper heavy industrial output value should account for 40 per cent of the total agricultural and industrial output value, and the agricultural and light industrial output value should account for 60 per cent.

—The ratio between consumption and accumulation. It is reasonable to keep the proportion of accumulation around 27 per cent and no higher than 30 per cent. Statistics from recent years

show that state revenue should be one-third of the national income and investment about 30 per cent of expenditures.

—The ratio between productive fixed assets invested in technical transformation and those invested in the construction and expansion of projects. In the next 10 years, 60 per cent of total investment should be used to modernize equipment and carry out the technical transformation of existing enterprises. The volume of fixed assets from the completion of key construction projects must be 80 per cent of total investment each year. On the average, the construction cycle is less than five years.

—The relationship between the

production of the means of subsistence and improvement of the people's livelihood. This relationship is, in fact, the ratio between the supply of commodities and purchasing power. Plans to improve living standards must take account of agricultural and industrial growth, and production of consumer goods in particular. What is the correct relationship between them? Experience shows that purchasing power can increase by about 6 per cent a year when agricultural and industrial output rises from 6 to 7 per cent. If this is kept up, living standards will improve over the next 10 years and a big improvement will be seen over the next 20 years. But it is necessary to point out that in 20 years living standards would still be lower than those in developed countries.

### Breeding Fish on Desert's Edge

from "RENMIN RIBAO"  
(People's Daily)

Thanks to the efforts of four dedicated university graduates, the people of a town on the northern edge of the Taklimakan Desert can enjoy shrimps and freshwater fish.

The project began in 1964, when He Naicheng and Yu Guifen, recently graduated from the Aquatic Department of Shandong Oceanology College, volunteered to work in Tarim in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to develop aquatic production at a nearby reservoir. The year after, they were joined by another couple, Xiao Hangang and Fan Jimci, also graduates of the same college.

They studied the local climate, soil and water quality and after deciding which species of fish were best suited to local conditions, they brought in millions of fry from south China. At first the large amounts of sulphate in the pond soil and the sulfuretted hydrogen emitted by anaerobic organisms in the water killed most of the fry. But working with aquatic products breeders, the four scientists improved the quality of the soil and water and were eventually successful in their trial breeding.

From 1964-67, they imported silver carp, carp, grass carp, spotted silver carp and blunt-snout bream as well as shrimp, snails, mussels and bullfrogs. Because the fish couldn't propagate naturally there, they devoted their



efforts to artificially incubating the fry.

They selected fine stocks of fish for breeding and fed them on high-quality malt, waterseeds and alfalfa to develop strains of parent fish that mature earlier. They also separated the parent fish from the

others to provide them with good conditions for growing and laying roe

As a result, fish output at the reservoir rose to 440 tons in 1982 from 40 tons in 1964.

The two couples have also trained a group of technicians in

aquatic production. In winter, they lecture on the biological characteristics of many species of fish and on ways to cultivate them. They help aquatic products breeders and technical workers from other units by explaining the theory of fish cultivation and methods of scientific breeding.

## 'Three Treasures' of the Northeast

from "GONGREN RIBAO"  
(Workers' Daily)

A Chinese folk rhyme says that the mountains of the northeast, which stretches across Liaoning, Jilin and Heilongjiang Provinces, have "three treasures"—ginseng, marten pelts and *wula* sedge. The first two are still treasures, while *wula* sedge has been replaced by sika antler.

To study, protect and artificially cultivate the "three treasures" and other wild animals and plants, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences established the Institute of Local Produce in 1956. Located in Zuojia, about 80 kilometres from Changchun in Jilin Province,

the research centre has since been listed as a natural reserve. Besides their main tasks, the researchers are studying wild fruit trees and plants for medicinal uses.

Ginseng, with its green flowers and red fruit, has been called the king of traditional Chinese medicine. With 14 kinds of glucosides and numerous carbohydrates, amines and vitamins, ginseng is good for regaining strength, quenching thirst and promoting secretion of saliva. It can also be used as a stomach tonic. For six years, the institute has been cultivating the rare plant in metre-high plastic greenhouses on the mountain slopes and the plants are now big enough for marketing

The marten, one of China's rare mammals, is known for its soft, warm, beautiful fur. The institute, which raises martens in more than 100 pens, has increased the propagation rate to 60 per cent and the survival rate in captivity to 95 per cent.

Almost every part of the sika deer—the antler, blood, embryo, horn, kidney, meat, muscle, skin, bone and tail—can be used as medicine or tonic. Especially useful is the pilose antler, which contains 10 types of amino acids and dozens of trace elements, such as iron, zinc and manganese which the human body requires

Sikas are native to Jilin Province, which has a long history of breeding them. In the past 10 years or so, the institute has improved the breeding method, locking the sikas up and breeding them artificially, compared with the old method which required a breeding area of one hectare with all the trees felled. In this way, not only has deer breeding advanced but the forest resources are protected.

The institute has also studied 200 species of fur-bearing animals, wild fruit shrubs, wild plants with medicinal uses, and wild fowl. Among these species are racoon dog, fox, muskrat, rabbit, yangtao, wild grape, Chinese hawk, the stem of the elevated gastrodia, fritillary bulb, Chinese wild ginger-root, hairy asia-bell root, the fruit of the Chinese magnolia vine, pheasant and wild goose.

The marten, one of northeast China's "three treasures."





Peasants in the suburbs of Beijing celebrating the Spring Festival.

## National Minorities Celebrate Spring Festival

**C**ELEBRATING the Spring Festival, the Chinese lunar New Year's Day, is not just a tradition of the Han people, who account for 93 per cent of China's population, but also the custom among many national minority groups. This year Spring Festival fell on February 2. On that day the people of various nationalities spent their joyful holiday of the year each in their own way.

As the festival approaches, people of the Dong nationality, living in Guizhou, Hunan and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region begin making New Year cakes (which are made of glutinous rice flour), fermenting wine and killing pigs and chickens. Paradoxical couplets are pasted on their doors,

and gifts are presented all around. In the smaller villages, the celebration begins as soon as New Year's breakfast is over.

The Dong people are fond of lion dancing. While among the Hans lion dancing is done only by men, the Dong women dress in beautiful clothes and prance through the streets holding a coloured paper lion on bamboo poles. The joyful atmosphere is brought to a climax when the watching crowds join in the fun.

During the Spring Festival, the Dong people also stage local opera, which dates back more than 100 years. The operas, adapted from Dong and Han folk tales, are accompanied by *erhu* (a two-stringed violin), gongs and drums. During

the festival, the people gather from many villages to perform operas, either on a modern stage or just a patch of level ground. Actors wear blue 12-button shirts and blue trousers, with their heads wrapped in blue cloth. Actresses are also in blue, with blouses that button on the right shoulder and hundred-fold skirts. Their performances, sometimes spiced with impromptu lines, are always received with enthusiasm.

Young and old Dong people alike enjoy *duoye*, which means singing and dancing. A leading dancer always sings first, followed by the others. A line of people, all singing and dancing, go from village to village. Wherever they go, they are given festival food.

and are even put up for the night when it is late. These activities contribute to understanding and friendship between the people of nearby villages.

The Spring Festival also brings joy and celebration to people of the Zhuang nationality, the largest minority group in China. Before the festival, every family prepares a big glutinous rice flour cake weighing several dozen kilogrammes and a half-kilogramme *zongzi* (a pyramid-shaped dumpling made of glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo or reed leaves). They also kill pigs and ducks, as the Dong people do.

These foods, which must be made before the festival, are called *yanianfan*, which means they will have a bumper harvest and every family will have surplus grain in the coming year. At dawn on the festival day, well-dressed housewives from every family go to a nearby river to fetch New Year Water. It symbolizes the industry and intelligence of the women in the year to come. Old folks boil the New Year Water with brown sugar, shallots, ginger and bamboo leaves. Every one in the family must drink a bowl of this brew, so that each will be clever and have

a happy life. When the sun is up, young men and women in the village have a 'get-together', performing the threshing dance in anticipation of a happy harvest. Dancers vividly recapture real life as they beat the rice on a large wooden box, and the grains fall into the box. Of course, nowadays the Zhuang people have begun using threshing machines.

The Miao people spend a joyful Spring Festival blowing the *lusheng* (a six-reed-pipe wind instrument) as much as they like, so that the reed pipe can be heard all night. It is said that *lusheng* was already popular among the Miaos 1,000 years ago. Today everyone, old and young, can blow the instruments, which are made by each family. Many villages set apart a ground for playing *lusheng*.

During the festival, all the Miaos in a village will dance to the *lusheng* on a level ground. Sometimes a leading dancer performs, and others follow him. Sometimes a line of men and a line of women dance face to face while blowing the *lusheng*. They whirl swiftly one moment, and dance with both legs bent the next. Sometimes they

even dance while doing handstands. The dance goes on till day-break.

The Miaos also have a custom of hanging a gong on each family's door on New Year's eve. At dawn, the gongs are struck by unmarried daughters, and other gongs respond to them immediately. This represents the end of the old year and the beginning of the New Year. It also means the girls will have the husbands after their own hearts.

## China's Climate Getting Colder

China's climate is becoming colder and the general drop in temperatures will last to the end of the century, according to meteorologists who have extensively studied imperial court files, climatic records, local histories and ancient literature covering the past 500 years.

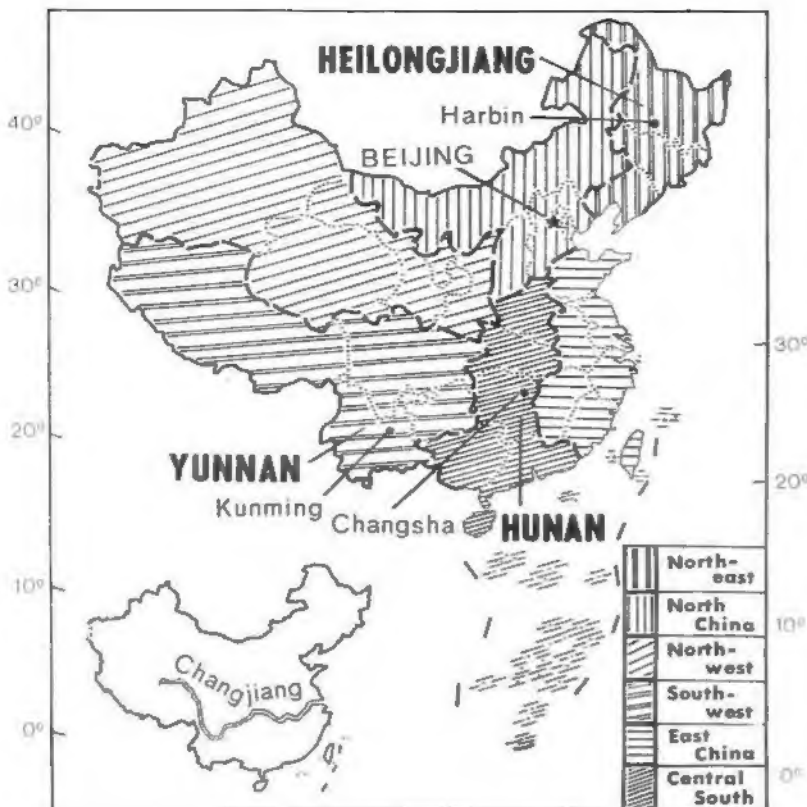
The Changjiang (Yangtze) River will freeze for the first time in over a hundred years, when the coldest weather of the century hits China between 1988 and 1993. We will also see cold springs, cool summers and severe winters, predicted Zhu Mingdao, an expert at the Meteorological Research Institute under the State Meteorological Bureau, who has been studying the history of China's climate changes since 1973.

The changes will be most obvious in summer and autumn. The recent trend towards hotter summers and warmer winters in Beijing is only a temporary local phenomenon.

For the past 500 years, the world has been experiencing increasingly colder weather. The drop in temperature has been the most severe in 5,000 years across the northern hemisphere, including China. Europe may be entering a "modern small ice age."

Tibetan lunar New Year Day happens to fall on the Spring Festival this year. A Tibetan peasant family comes together during the holidays.





China has passed through four periods of cold and three of warmer weather, each lasting about 50 years, since 1470. The present cold trend, which began in 1963, is the fourth cold period.

Since the 1960s, temperatures have dropped by 0.4 to 0.8 degrees centigrade in northeast, northwest and south China, and by 0.5 to 1.4 degrees centigrade in the east and southwest. The temperature drop spreads from the northeast to other parts of the country from winter to spring and summer to autumn.

Low summer temperatures hit the northeast in 1969, 1972, 1976 and 1983. In 1976, early autumn frost caused a loss of more than 3 million tons of grain in Heilongjiang Province. In the 70s, there were often cold springs in south and central China. The cold also spread to Kunming in Yunnan Province known as a city of eternal spring. But a rare cold winter with several snowfalls came in 1982. Nearly 27,000 draft cattle died due to frosts in Hunan Province on the

middle reaches of the Changjiang River.

Because of the colder climate, cold waves and drought will be major threats to agricultural production before the end of the century. But occasional warmer winters, hotter summers and flooding can not be ruled out in some regions.

Zhu also challenged assumptions that the earth's climate would rapidly warm due to the "hothouse effect," an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere which would prevent dissipation of the earth's heat, causing the polar ice caps to melt and raising sea levels worldwide. He said the "hothouse" theories overestimated the influence of human activities on nature, neglecting the actual course of world climate. He said current statistics on the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are only records from a few observation posts. They are far from enough to substantiate the thesis that the increase has contributed to a global

rise in temperature. Urban air pollution and the indiscriminate felling of trees have affected only a tiny fraction of the earth's vast farmlands, grasslands and forests, while water surfaces, accounting for 70 per cent of the world's area, have tremendous potential to purify the air.

Zhu also pointed out that although human activities have increased the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, they have also increased the cloud cover and the amount of dust, which limit how much solar radiation reaches the ground. The volcanic eruptions in recent years have also added huge amounts of dust to the atmosphere. The eruption in Mexico in 1982 — the largest recorded in the 20th century when dust extended as far as the Arctic — reduced solar radiation by 3 to 5 per cent. This is an important reason for the drop in world temperatures.

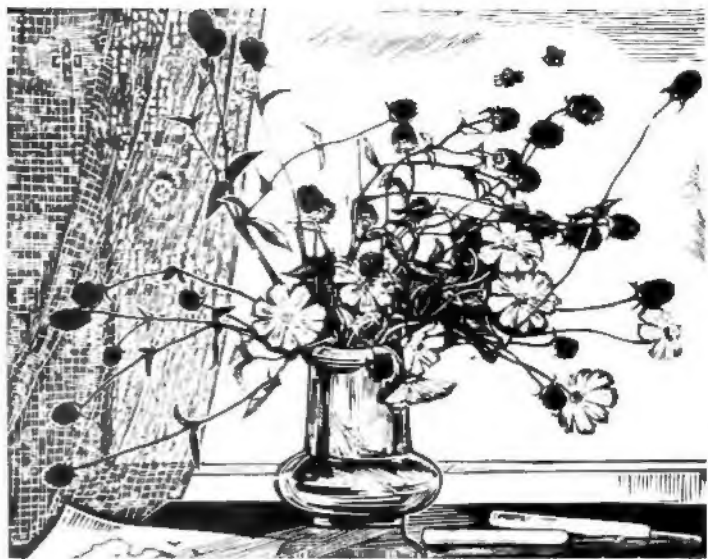
At the beginning of this century, Zhu noted, many regions had warmer climates. The warmest was in the 1940s. After that, temperatures began to drop. Since the 1960s, the climate has been getting colder and colder north of 50 degrees north latitude, and south of 50 degrees south latitude. This trend has not been altered by the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.



## Woodcuts by Wang Lisha

Born in 1934 in Shanghai, Wang is now teaching at the Guangzhou Art Institute.

Capitalizing on the black-white contrast, Wang uses various cutting skills with rich and graceful results. Vivid and strong, yet delicate, her works reflect a clear, bold outlook.



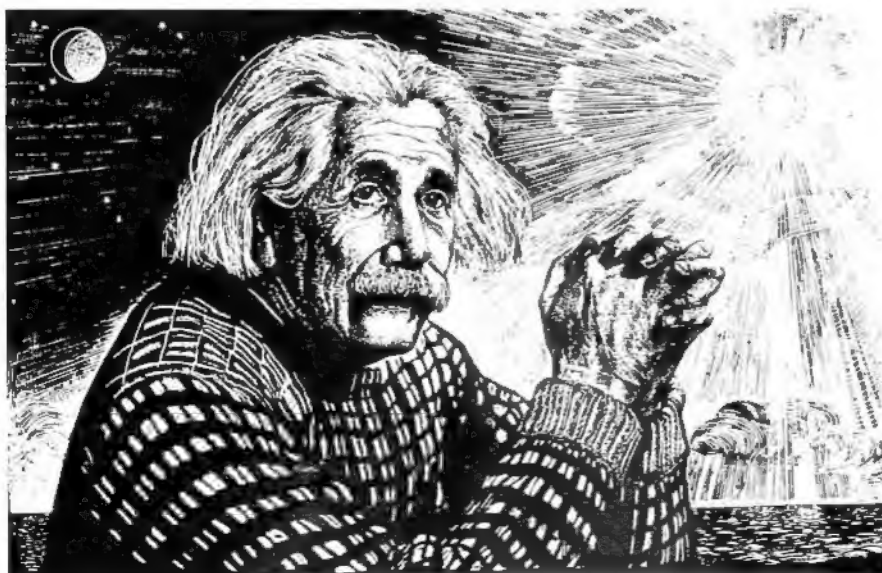
Flowers in the Sun.



Teasing Cotton.



Snowy Night.



Portrait of Albert Einstein.

**ART PAGE**



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